

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : A61K 35/02, 9/06, 7/48, A61P 17/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/40255 (43) International Publication Date: 13 July 2000 (13.07.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/IL00/00011		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 6 January 2000 (06.01.00)			
(30) Priority Data: 127943 7 January 1999 (07.01.99) IL			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DEAD SEA LABORATORIES LTD. [IL/IL]; Mitzpe Shalem, 86983 Dead Sea (IL).			
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MAOR, Zeev [IL/IL]; Kalia, 90666 Dead Sea (IL). YEHUDA, Shaul [IL/IL]; Mitzpe Shalem, 86983 Dead Sea (IL). MAGDASSI, Shlomo [IL/IL]; Hanerd 36, 96626 Jerusalem (IL). MESHULAM-SIMON, Galit [IL/IL]; Tamar 25, 36022 Tivon (IL). GAVRIELI, Yona [IL/IL]; Golomb 34, 36022 Tivon (IL). GILAD, Ziva [IL/IL]; Ein Gedi, 86980 Dead Sea (IL). EFRON, Dov [IL/IL]; Aza 23, 92382 Jerusalem (IL).		Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(74) Agent: NOAM, Meir, P.O. Box 34335, 91342 Jerusalem (IL).			

(54) Title: CREAM COMPOSITION COMPRISING DEAD SEA MUD**(57) Abstract**

The present invention relates to a pharmaceutical cream composition for topical application for the treatment of skin disorders and skin diseases, comprising 1-6 wt.% Dead Sea Mud as an active ingredient. Said composition is for use in treating skin disorders and skin diseases such as psoriasis, saborrethic dermatitis, xerosis, atopic dermatitis, eczema, diaper rash, skin burns of state I and sensitive skin. Said cream composition is also for use as a leave-on cosmetic cream for beautifying and enhancing the skin appearance. In addition to Dead Sea Mud said composition comprises ingredients suitable for the preparation of cosmetic cream. Said cream can further comprise up to 4 wt.% Dead Sea water.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

CREAM COMPOSITION COMPRISING DEAD SEA MUD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to pharmaceutical and cosmetic cream compositions containing Dead Sea Mud for topical skin application. More specifically, the present invention relates to compositions for prevention and treatment of skin related disorders such as saborrehic dermatitis, xerosis, eczema, psoriasis and skin burns and for cosmetic use for retaining skin moisture and repairing of impaired skin.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The skin is the largest organ in the body, serving as a protective barrier from the external environment. As such it is susceptible to various disorders and diseases caused by microorganisms, exposure to radiation, contact with irritating materials and loss of water.

Dead Sea mud and water are known for their therapeutic and cosmetic properties (for example see Ma'or Z. and Yehuda S. (1997) *International Journal of Cosmetic Science* 19:105-110). Various cosmetic products based on these properties exist in the market. For example, Japanese application JP 96011775 discloses a beauty plaster, comprising among other ingredients, natural salt and mud from the Dead Sea. PCT application No. PCT/IL98/00311 (applicant: Dead Sea Laboratories Ltd.) discloses a composition for skin care and protection comprising 10 – 15 % of Dead Sea water.

Dead Sea mud is especially known for its therapeutic properties on psoriasis and other skin related disorders. Patients, suffering from various skin diseases come to the Dead Sea to have treatments with Dead Sea Mud, often upon their physician recommendation.

However, treatment with raw Dead Sea Mud has several drawbacks. It may be quite expensive and inconvenient for patients to travel to the Dead Sea for

receiving treatment. The other possibility, delivering raw mud to the patient's home, is inconvenient due to the large amounts that must be applied for each treatment (10 Kg). Furthermore, the treatment with Dead Sea mud is quite messy and is limited to short time periods, since the mud cannot be left on the body for long periods of time due to inconvenience and aesthetic reasons.

It is the aim of the present invention to overcome the problems associated with treatments with Dead Sea water by providing an easy and pleasant to use creams that while having the therapeutic benefits of the Dead Sea mud do not suffer from the above mentioned disadvantages.

The incorporation of mud (in our case, Dead Sea mud) into a leave-on cream which should be evenly spreadable, aesthetic (i.e., unnoticeable), pleasant to use and absorbed easily to the skin, is not simple, because it involves a suspension of solid particles in an oil-in-water emulsion that contains electrolytes in a very high concentration. Such a combination has a high tendency to aggregate and to separate into phases. Still the cream must be stable and with a reasonable shelf life.

The present invention overcomes said difficulties by proper selection of stabilizers and other components, and provides a cream that has the benefits of treatment with Dead Sea mud, but non of the drawbacks. It is an easy and simple to use hypoallergenic cream that is absorbed into the skin and in contrast to the treatments used today, it may be in prolonged contact with the skin (i.e., leave-on cream), enhancing the beneficial effects of the Dead Sea mud. It is also stable, does not separate to phases, and has long shelf life.

In the context of the present invention the term "cosmetic cream" relates to an oil-in-water emulsion, suitable for applying to skin, of various viscosity ranges including milk, lotion, cream and ointment.

The term "pharmaceutical cream" relates to an oil-in-water emulsion of various viscosity including milk, lotion, cream and ointment for the use of treating (healing) and preventing or delaying skin disorders and diseases.

The term "leave on cream" (in contrary to "rinse off") relates to a cream that may be in prolonged contact with the skin and can be applied to the skin without the need to wipe it off in any way.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a pharmaceutical cream composition for topical application for the treatment of skin disorders and skin diseases, comprising 1-6 wt.% Dead Sea Mud as an active ingredient. Said composition is for use in treating skin disorders and skin diseases such as psoriasis, saborrethic dermatitis, xerosis, attopic dermatitis, eczema, diaper rash, skin burns of stage I and sensitive skin.

Said cream composition is also for use as a leave-on cosmetic cream for beautifying and enhancing the skin appearance.

In addition to Dead Sea Mud said composition comprises ingredients suitable for the preparation of cosmetic cream.

In a preferred embodiment, said ingredients are selected from Octyl Palmitate, Cetearyl Alcohol, Ceteareth-30, Hexadeacanol, Glyceryl Stearate, Glycerin, PEG-40 Stearate, Zinc Oxide, Propylene Glycol, Aloe Barbadensis Extract, Dimethicone, Sorbitan Tristearate, Allantoin, Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Vitamin E (Tocopherol), Bronopol.

Said cream can further comprises up to 4 wt% Dead Sea water.

The present compositions can further contain a fragrance.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to pharmaceutical cream composition for topical application for the treatment of skin disorders and skin diseases, comprising 1-6 wt.% Dead Sea Mud as an active ingredient. Said composition is also for use as a cosmetic leave-on composition for beautifying and enhancing the skin appearance.

Said composition is prepared by adding 1-6 wt.% Dead Sea Mud and optionally up to 4% Dead Sea water to cosmetic oil-in-water emulsion comprising of ingredients suitable for the preparation of a cosmetic cream such as ingredients selected from Octyl Palmitate, Cetearyl Alcohol (and) Ceteareth-30, Hexadeacanol, Glyceryl Stearate, Glycerin, PEG-40 Stearate, Zinc Oxide, Propylene Glycol (and) Aloe Barbadensis Extract, Dimethicone, Sorbitan Tristearate, Allontoin, Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Vitamin E (Tocopherol), Bronopol and fragrance.

The present composition was found to be efficient in the treatment of the following skin disorders and diseases: Psoriasis, Saborrehic dermatitis, Xerosis (very dry skin), Attopic dermatitis, Eczema, Diaper rush, sensitive skin, and skin burns of stage I.

Dead Sea Mud (Silt) as defined in the present invention is (at 25°C) stable black paste solid with specific density of 1.6 -1.8 g/ml, pH = 6.4 - 7.6, Water content of 30 - 40 %/w and less than 100 cfu/gr and non-pathogenic microbes. The chemical identity of Dead Sea mud is natural sediment, mixture of solid mineral clays with interstitial solution of inorganic salts and sulfide compounds originated from microbiological activity, with particle size 86-98% < 0.005 mm, 2-9% 0.005-0.02 mm, 0-7% > 0.02 mm.

The major constituents of the Dead Sea Mud are:

In the solid phase (60-70%):

Water soluble: Halite (20-40%)

HCl soluble: Carbonates (30-40%): calcite, dolomite, aragonite

Non HCl-Soluble matter: Silicates (30-40%): quarts, montmorillonite, feldspar, kaolonite

In the liquid phase (30-40% dissolved as ions in water):

chloride (Cl⁻) 148-190 g/l

sodium (Na⁺) 22-32 g/l

magnesium (Mg²⁺) 30-40 g/l

calcium (Ca^{2+}) 10-15 g/l

potassium (K^+) 6-8 g/l

Dead Sea Water, as defined in the present invention, comprises a clear colorless viscous liquid (at 25^0C) with a specific density of 1.2 - 1.36 g/ml, pH = 4.5 - 5.5 (at 25^0C), less than 100 cfu/gr and non pathogenic microbes.

The major constituents of the Dead Sea Water are:

Calcium (Ca^{2+})	36000 - 40000 mg/l
Chloride (Cl^-)	320000 - 370000 mg/l
Magnesium (Mg^{2+})	90000 - 95000 mg/l
Potassium (K^+)	1300 - 1500 mg/l
Sodium (Na^+)	1500 - 2500 mg/l
Bromide (Br^-)	11000 - 12000 mg/l
Strontium (Sr^{2+})	750 - 850 mg/l

The preparation of creams according to the present invention involves the facilitation of non-ionic emulsifiers such as ethoxilated sorbitan esters, sorbitan esters, ethoxilated alcohols or fatty acids, alkyl glucosides, mono- and di-glycerides etc.

A preferred embodiment of a cream composition according to the present invention is given in the following Table 1.

Table 1. Raw Ingredients List of preferred embodiment of the present invention:

No.	INCI & COLIPA Name and Ingredients	Authority*	Page No.	Quantity
1	Water (Aqua)	CTFA 95	1065	Up to 100%
2	Octyl Palmitate		642	8.0 %
3	Cetearyl Alcohol (and) Ceteareth-30	"	1372	5.0 %
4	Hexadeacanol	"	164	4.0 %
5	Glyceryl Stearate	"	413	3.0 %
6	Glycerin	"	402	3.0%
7	Dead Sea Mud (silt)	"	912	2.0 %
8	Dead Sea Water (Maris Sal Aqua)	"	1240	1.0 %
9	PEG-40 Stearate	"	734	1.0 %
10	Zinc Oxide	"	1103	1.0 %
11	Propylene Glycol (and) Aloe Barbadensis Extract	"	1330	1.0 %
12	Dimethicone	"	315	0.5 %
13	Fragrance (Parfum)	-----	-----	0.5 %
14	Sorbitan Tristearate	CFTA 95	969	0.4 %
15	Allantoin	"	27	0.2 %
16	Methylparaben	"	589	0.2 %
17	Propylparaben	"	859	0.2 %
18	Vitamin E (Tocopherol)	"	1029	0.05 %
19	Bronopol	"	108	0.04 %

* CFTA – Cosmetic Fragrance and Toiletries Association nomenclature.

The preparation of the cream composition of the present invention is preferably done by the following steps:

- 1) Preparing an aqueous phase comprising distilled water, allantoin, methyl paraben, PEG-40 sterarate and glycerin by mixing said components and heating to 75 °C.
- 2) Preparing a lipophilic phase comprising octyl palmitate, cetearyl alcohol, ceteareth-30, hexadeacanol, glyceryl stearate, zinc oxide, propylene glycol, dimethicone, sorbitan tristearate, propylparaben, and vitamin E (tocopherol), by mixing at 75 °C.

- 3) Introducing the lipophilic phase dropwise into a reactor containing the aqueous phase (the distance between the rotor and the stator is adjusted to 4 mm) while stirring at 30 rpm and homogenizing the mixture at 1500 rpm.
- 4) Cooling said mixture obtained in step 3 slowly and adding following components at following temperatures through homogenization,
- 5) Adding bronopol dissolved in water at 60°C.
- 6) Adding the fragrance at 45 °C.
- 7) Adding Aloe Barbadensis extract at 35°C.
- 8) Adding Dead Sea Mud and Dead Sea Water at 25°C.
- 9) Removing from the reactor to suitable containers.

The composition so obtained is a gray light cream with ingredients concentrations as specified in Table 1 and with the following properties:

Density: 1.00 ± 0.1 g/ml; Viscosity as determined by Brookfield viscometer with needle c: 108,600 cps at 5 rpm and 190,400 cps at 2.5 rpm; pH: 7.0 ± 0.5 and less than 100 cfu/gr. The cream is stable and does not separate into phases and has a shelf life of 3 years.

The present invention will be further illustrated by the following experiments. These experiments do not intend to limit the scope of the invention, but to demonstrate and clarify it only.

Experimental

In a comparative study, the efficiency of the preferred embodiment of the present invention as disclosed in Table 1 was tested for the treatment of facial Seborrheic Dermatitis and for Xerosis.

Experiment 1: Safety clinical tests for hypoallergenicity (according to US Repeat Insult Patch Test, Federal Register, vol. 46, no. 17 27.9.1978)

The composition of Table 1 was tested for allergenic symptoms on a group of 50 volunteers. The test was performed as follows:

Every 48 hours the composition was spread on the back of each volunteer and was left for 24 hours. This was repeated 9 times.

No one of the group showed allergenic symptoms or irritations signs.

Experiment 2: The efficiency of the preferred embodiment of Table 1 for the treatment of facial Seborrehic Dermatitis.

In a comparative study, the efficiency of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, specified in Table 1, was tested for the treatment of facial Seborrehic Dermatitis.

A group of 15 people with various degrees of illness severity were selected by an expert dermatologist from a group of volunteers that answered to advertisements in the papers. Each subject received composition in a quantity that lasts for 2 weeks.

Three criteria, Redness, Scale and Itch, were evaluated by the dermatologist on a scale 1 to 4, right before the treatment, immediately at the end of the two weeks treatment and a week after the treatment ended. The same parameters were evaluated "subjectively" by the subjects on a scale of 1 to 10 at the same times.

The results of the experiment were as follows:

According to the numerical graded report of all the subjects, the two-week treatment improved the state of the skin according to all three criteria. In most cases the improvement was clear and significant.

According to the subjects numerical evaluation there was an improvement of 30% ($p \leq 0.08$) in Redness immediately after the treatment ended. A week later an improvement of 45% with $p \leq 0.02$ was reported.

According to the dermatologist numerical evaluation there was an improvement of 38% ($p \leq 0.008$) after 2 weeks of treatment and of 45% ($p \leq 0.005$) a week after the treatment was stopped.

According to the subjects evaluation there was a significant improvement of 25% in Scale ($p \leq 0.09$). A week later an average (insignificant) improvement of 28% was still found ($p=0.16$).

According to the dermatologist evaluation of Scale, there was an average improvement of 25% ($p=0.2$). A week later the improvement still increased and reached an average ($p=13$) improvement of 34%.

The subjects also reported an improvement in Itch but the results had no statistical significance. A week after the treatment ended the improvement still increased and reached an average level of 28% (but still with no statistical significance). Since the values reported for this criterion were low all along the experiment, they are uncertain and probably irrelevant.

The results of experiment 2 are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Effect of the composition of the present invention on facial Seborreic Dermatitis (15 subjects)

Criterion		Improvement after 2 weeks of treatment	Improvement a week after the treatment ends
REDNESS	Patient evaluation	30% $p \leq 0.08$	45% $p \leq 0.02$
	Physician evaluation	38% $p = 0.008$	45% $p = 0.005$
SCALE	Patient evaluation	25% $p \leq 0.09$	28% $p = 0.16$
	Physician evaluation	25% $p = 0.2$	34% $p = 0.13$

Experiment 3: The efficiency of a preferred embodiment of the present invention for the treatment of Xerosis.

In a comparative study, the efficiency of a preferred embodiment of the present invention was tested for the treatment of xerosis.

A group of 16 people, suffering from various degrees of xerosis in their lower thighs., were selected by an expert dermatologist, from a group of volunteers that answered to advertisements in the papers. Each subject received composition in a quantity that lasted for 2 weeks.

Two criteria, Dryness and Itch, were evaluated by the subjects on a scale of 1 to 10.

Four criteria, Scale, Cracks, Roughness and Redness, were evaluated by the dermatologist on a scale 1 to 4.

The skin humidity was measured by corneometer CM 820 of Courage and Khazaka.

The evaluations and tests were performed before the treatment, immediately at the end of the two weeks treatment and a week after the treatment ended.

The results of the test were as follows:

A statistical analysis of the results showed clearly that the condition of the subjects improved significantly according to most criteria.

According to the subjects' numerical evaluation, a significant improvement of about 50% ($p \leq 0.01$) in both criteria, Dryness and Itch, was reported. A week after the treatment ended, there was still a significant improvement in both criteria (23% in Dryness, $p \leq 0.02$; 43% for Itch, $p \leq 0.05$).

According to the physician numerical evaluation, the most significant improvement was found in Scale (80%). A week after the treatment there was still an improvement of 57% ($p \leq 0.001$).

A significant improvement was found also for Cracks (83%, $p \leq 0.03$). A week later an average improvement of 66% with $p \leq 0.1$ was found.

In Roughness a clear improvement of 45% ($p \leq 0.01$) was found at the end of the treatment. A week later there was still an improvement but with no statistical significance ($p < 0.5$).

The Redness criterion is irrelevant in this case, because it was given very low values even before the treatment.

The corneometer results showed 15% improvement in skin humidity with $p \leq 0.051$.

The results of experiment 3 are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Effect of the composition of the present invention on Xerosis (16 subjects)

CRITERIA		Improvement after 2 weeks of treatment	Improvement a week after the treatment ends
DRYNESS	Patients evaluation	50% $p \leq 0.01$	23% $p \leq 0.02$
ITCH	Patients evaluation	50% $p \leq 0.01$	43% $p \leq 0.05$
SCALE	Physician evaluation	80%	57% $p \leq 0.001$
CRACKS	Physician evaluation	83% $p \leq 0.03$	66% $p = 0.1$
ROUGHNESS	Physician evaluation	45% $p \leq 0.01$	
Humidity	Objective estimation	15% $p \leq 0.051$	

CLAIMS

- 1) Pharmaceutical cream composition for topical application comprising 1 – 6 wt.% Dead Sea Mud as an active ingredient for the treatment of skin disorders and skin diseases and further comprising ingredients suitable for the preparation of a leave-on cream.
- 2) Compositions according to claim 1 wherein the skin disorders and skin diseases are selected from Psoriasis, Saborrehic dermatitis, Xerosis, Attopic dermatitis, Eczema, Diaper rush, skin burns of stage I and sensitive skin.
- 3) Cosmetic leave-on cream composition for topical application comprising 1 – 5 wt.% Dead Sea Mud for beatifying and improving skin appearance and for use in retaining skin moisture, further comprising ingredients suitable for the preparation of a leave-on cosmetic cream.
- 4) Compositions according to claim 1 and 3 wherein the ingredients suitable for the preparation of a leave-on cream are selected from Octyl Palmitate, Cetearyl Alcohol, Ceteareth-30, Hexadeacanol, Glyceryl Stearate, Glycerin, PEG-40 Stearate, Zinc Oxide, Propylene Glycol, Aloe Barbadensis Extract, Dimethicone, Sorbitan Tristearate, Allantoin, Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Vitamin E and Bronopol
- 5) Compositions according to any of the preceding claims further comprising up to 4% wt% Dead Sea water.
- 6) Compositions according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a fragrance.

- 7) Composition according to claim 1 and 3 with ingredients and ingredients concentration as specified in Table 1.
- 8) A method for the preparation of a cream composition according to any of the preceding claims comprising a) preparing an oil-in-water emulsion with non-ionic emulsifiers and b) adding 1 – 5 wt.% of Dead Sea Mud and optionally up to 4% of Dead Sea water to said emulsion.
- 9) A method according to claim 8 wherein the non-ionic emulsifiers are selected from ethoxilated sorbitan esters, sorbitan esters, ethoxilated alcohols or fatty acids, alkyl glucosides, mono- and di-glycerides.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. Jonal Application No
PCT/IL 00/00011

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61K35/02 A61K9/06 A61K7/48 A61P17/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 32 21 502 A (WIXFORTH BRUNO) 8 December 1983 (1983-12-08) page 4 claims	1-9
A	WO 97 22348 A (OLIM IND OF ISRAEL NORTH AMERI) 26 June 1997 (1997-06-26) page 3, line 1 - line 16 tables 1,5	1-9
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1997, no. 11, 28 November 1997 (1997-11-28) & JP 09 175955 A (KOSE CORP), 8 July 1997 (1997-07-08) abstract	1-9

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

*Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

3 May 2000

10/05/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Epskamp, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int'l. Jpnal Application No

PCT/IL 00/00011

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
DE 3221502	A 08-12-1983	NONE		
WO 9722348	A 26-06-1997	US 5679378 A		21-10-1997
		AU 1742097 A		14-07-1997
		CA 2238052 A		26-06-1997
		CN 1207682 A		10-02-1999
		EP 0869799 A		14-10-1998
JP 09175955	A 08-07-1997	JP 2779926 B		23-07-1998

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.